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ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY.

*ceorl*; he was in favor of a composite origin for the manor and defended Bishop Stubbs' view of the constitutional position of the English town. But his criticisms are always moderate and his judgments are given only after careful study.

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THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. By E. BELFORT BAX. Pp. 119. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. Social Science Series.

This sketch is a socialistic interpretation of the French Revolution. It appeared originally as a serial of twenty-six chapters in *Justice*, the weekly socialistic organ, in 1889. It makes little of the military aspect but presents the operations of economic, philosophical and political forces with commendable clearness.

Rousseau was the voice crying in the wilderness; "Back to Nature." His educational theories in *Émile*, his social polity propounded in the *Contrat Social* contain his message to men. Upon the bourgeoisie of France in its political nothingness came this leavening thought and made it everything; not that all else was destroyed, but that whatever survived the ruin was absorbed into the new-made social class—the third estate of the old. In this we have Bax's conception in the rough of the real cause and the visible result of the French Revolution. It was Rousseau and Voltaire who demonstrated to the mind of France the possibility of revolution. But whence the forces to execute it? Not in the nobility, nor the clergy, both of whom by long-continued evasion of responsibility had doomed themselves to an incapacity for bettering the state of things in which they lived. The great heart of the monarchy had ceased to do its work and the nation rallied to save itself from death.

Women and workers—in these two words we touch the nerve of the French Revolution. They are not, it is true, the stage-characters throughout, but he who will read the records again will find that the moral energy of the movement lay in these social classes which did the toiling for the degenerate dynasty. Bax does a creditable service to the general reader in setting

forth this view in so hopeful a light. He writes for seekers after a better order of society and carries the sympathies of the reader with him, if he does not win his conclusions. The book would make a helpful outline for a more extended review of the Revolution by those who wish to read the story again from a new point of view.

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THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION. By ÉMILE BOUTMY. Translated by ISABEL M. EATON, with an Introduction by SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK. Pp., xvii, 212. London and New York : Macmillan & Co., 1891.

STUDIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. France—England—United States. By ÉMILE BOUTMY. Translated by E. M. DICEY, with an Introduction by A. V. DICEY. Pp. xiv, 183. London and New York : Macmillan & Co., 1891.

The first of these works treats of the development and growth of the English Constitution since the Norman Conquest, and its scope may best be understood from the titles of some of the representative chapters, such as : The Higher Baronage and the Peerage ; The Knights and the Burgesses—The Decay of the Feudal System ; Colonization, Commerce and Industry before the Eighteenth Century ; The Country Gentlemen ; The Agricultural Laborer ; and so on. There are chapters, though few in number, devoted to more strictly constitutional and legal subjects, but in the main this is an economic study of the English Constitution and an investigation into the position occupied by the various classes of society during the last eight hundred years. Such a method has its advantage and its weakness. By concentrating our attention upon one or two lines M. Boutmy has, perhaps, brought out these features of the English Constitution more clearly than has any other writer in so few pages. But as a general view of the subject, even though a distant bird's-eye view, there are many defects, prominent among which are the minor attention given to the history of Parliament and the inadequate treatment of the origin and growth of the English judicial system. For this and